

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: January 28, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-132)

TO: Mickey Carter
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects- Salmon Valley Golf Course

Project No: 1994-017-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 4.6 Sprinkler Irrigation, 4.18 Purchase/Negotiation of Water Rights, 4.20 Well Construction for Primary Water Source

Location: Lemhi County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund an instream flow enhancement project on the Lemhi River with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District. The Salmon Valley Golf Course currently takes water from the Lemhi River to irrigate the golf course and to flood irrigate a nearby pasture. This project proposes to remove the golf course's use of surface water from the Lemhi River. Up to three new wells will be constructed to provide 2 cfs of water to the golf course. This project also proposes to install a new sprinkler system on the golf course and a new irrigation wheel line on the nearby pasture. A total of 3.56 cfs of water will be left instream in the Lemhi River as a result of this project.

Analysis: The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Carl Rudeen with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District (January 15, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are Snake River sockeye salmon, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead, Columbia River bull trout, gray wolf, bald eagle, Canadian lynx, and Ute Ladies'-Tresses. It was determined that the proposed project would have no effect on gray wolf, bald eagle, Canadian lynx, Ute Ladies'-Tresses or sockeye salmon since these species are not known to occur in the project area. It was also determined that the proposed project would have a beneficial effect on ESA listed aquatic species resulting from the 3.56 cfs that will be left instream. Documentation supporting these determinations was provided by Carl Rudeen, Habitat Specialist with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District.

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were handled by the Natural Resource Conservation Service in cooperation with staff from the U.S. Forest Service, Boise National Forest. The project description and site information was reviewed by a qualified archaeologist and it was determined that the Salmon Valley Golf Course project did not require an archaeological survey to proceed. These findings were made in compliance with the established Programmatic Agreement between the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is discovered as part of this project, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Salmon Valley Golf Course project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals including well permits and water rights.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Salmon Valley Golf Course project. This project was discussed and approved by the following groups and agencies: City of Salmon, Salmon Valley Golf Course Association, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Lemhi Irrigation District, Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District, Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project (USBWP) Technical Team which includes representation from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and the USBWP Advisory Committee.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 1-28-04
Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Tom McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 1-28-04

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
NRCS Project Request for Cultural Resource Assistance, August 29, 2003

cc: (w/ attachments)
Mr. Bruce McConnell – Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District